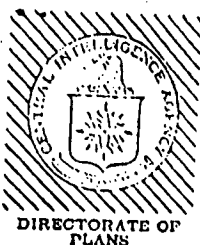


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17 13 20 JAN 69

CITE TDCS DB-315/00194-69

DIST 17 JANUARY 1969

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY/USSR

DOI EARLY JANUARY 1969

SUBJECT EAST GERMAN COUNTEROFFER TO WEST GERMAN PRISONER EXCHANGE  
PROPOSAL

ACQ GERMANY (13 JANUARY 1969)

FIELD NO. OGA-853

SOURCE A WEST GERMAN PUBLICIST WHO HAS REPORTED RELIABLY FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HIS GERMAN ACQUAINTANCES ARE AWARE OF HIS CONTACTS AMONG AMERICAN OFFICIALS. HE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION FROM A WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, WHO IS KEPT INFORMED OF PRISONER EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES.

1. //FIELD COMMENT - ON 21 DECEMBER, 1968, THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTED TO RESOLVE THE CURRENT IMPASSE ON PRISONER EXCHANGES BY OFFERING TO EXCHANGE SOVIET SPY HEINZ FELFE FOR A NUMBER OF FORMER WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE /BND/ AGENTS WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN EAST GERMANY. (SEE TDCSDB-315/00004-69.)

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2. THE 21 DECEMBER LIST CONTAINED THE NAMES OF 29 WEST GERMANS, MOST OF WHOM WERE SERVING LONG-TERM PRISON SENTENCES. A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THESE PRISONERS HAD BEEN CONVICTED ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE, SUPPOSEDLY ON BEHALF OF THE RND.

3. IN EARLY JANUARY, THE EAST GERMANS TRANSMITTED A COUNTEROFFER THROUGH EAST GERMAN PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATOR WOLFGANG VOGEL TO HIS WEST GERMAN COUNTERPART, ATTORNEY JUERGEN STANGE. ACCORDING TO THIS COUNTEROFFER, THE EAST GERMANS ARE WILLING TO RELEASE 22 OF THE 29 WEST GERMANS, AND, IN ADDITION, THREE WEST GERMAN STUDENTS WHO ARE IMPRISONED IN THE USSR.

4. //SOURCE COMMENT - THE WEST GERMAN OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE COUNTEROFFER HAD BEEN SENT TO THE OFFICES OF CHANCELLOR KURT GEORG KIESINGER AND ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER HERBERT WEHNER. IT IS EXPECTED THAT WEHNER WILL TRY TO INFLUENCE THE CHANCELLOR TO ACCEPT THE EAST GERMAN OFFER.//

5. FIELD DISSEM - EMBASSY BONN, USDB.

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